BENGALURU, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2025 www.Bangaloremirror.com 12 Pages PRICE ₹3

Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 29 | Min 21 | Humidity 65% | Light rain | Sensex 83,978 | Nifty 25,763 | Gold 1,21,771 | Silver 1,48,500 | Dollar 88.76 | Euro 102.15 | GBP 116.48

Get More with Shorts

If it doesn't help sell, what's the point?

Brands, scan to know more

Source: Google/Material, Power of YouTube Shorts, November 2023 (Base: India short-form video watchers, including YouTube Shorts and at least one other SFV platform, n=1,790), Field Dates: 11/7/23 - 11/22/23

YouTube Shorts

Get More with Shorts

72% Indians say YouTube Shorts helps them decide what to buy

6% lift in ROAS

#nanobanana

Naturali

4.58% lift in consideration

#makeuphacks

#GRWM

AJIO

1.5x ROAS

#Thrifting

Brands, scan to know more

WILD STONE

4.17% lift in consideration

#YTshopping

MANGAL & MANGAL

70% lower CPV

#desibaddie

Results using YouTube Partnership Ads

Source: Google/Material, Power of YouTube Shorts, November 2023 (Base: India short-form video watchers, including YouTube Shorts and at least one other SFV platform, n=1,790), Field Dates: 11/7/23 - 11/22/23

YouTube Shorts

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STRAY CHOW

Will creating feeding spots for dogs in government offices work? Animal lovers debate after SC hints at new guidelines

PAGE 5

CARD CONCERN

Intra-state portability of ration cards dropped from 11.99 lakh in Jan to 11.39 lakh in July, a 5% drop in state

PAGE 7

Over 1,200 trees uprooted, 2,500 branches fell in Bengaluru between May and Sept this year, even claiming lives — from 88%, city's green cover has dropped to 3% today due to unplanned urbansisation, say environmentalists

CANOPY CATASTROPHE

Concrete cuts off water, air circulation to trees

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Between May and September this year, 1,222 trees were uprooted and 2,585 branches snapped in Bengaluru, leaving behind a trail of destruction that claimed three lives and injured six others. Environmentalists warn this alarming trend is not just about fallen trees — it's a sign of a city losing its natural balance.

Once known as the Garden City, Bengaluru's greenery has been shrinking at an alarming rate. Half a century ago, the city boasted nearly 88% green cover — today, it has dropped to just 3%. Experts blame unplanned urbanisation, concretisation, and poor maintenance for this ecological decline. The Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) is now facing criticism for failing to protect even the remaining trees. Many trees are reportedly being "slow-poisoned" as concrete is poured around their roots in the name of road and footpath development, cutting off water and air circulation.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 »

"On average, the city experiences wind speeds of 10–40 km/h, occasionally touching 50 km/h during storms. Poorly rooted and weakened trees simply cannot withstand these conditions, leading to frequent collapses

—City-based ecologist

'Sanitary napkins in elephant dung'

Wildlife activists say general guideline on 'single-use plastic' won't work as all kinds of waste are found discarded in forest areas

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Karnataka Forest Minister's new initiative to tackle plastic pollution in forest areas through a two-phase inspection drive of vehicles using national highways that pass through Bandipur and Nagarhole has loopholes, wildlife conservationists have said.

Eshwar Khandre announced last week that travellers using these national highways and in possession of single-use plastics might have to pay a hefty penalty if caught during inspection.

"A couple of years ago, we conducted night traffic monitoring on the national highway passing through Bandipur. We also combed the forest area around 20 metres from the road, on both sides. The amount of discarded alcohol bottles, used condoms, sanitary napkins, and sanitary pads was much greater than other single-use plastic items, such as water bottles, plastic plates, or straws. Pan masala wrappers were also found in abundance," said Ramesh Belagere, a wildlife researcher with the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 »

THINGS TO DO

01 Law and order

National Law School of India University and Ikigai Law will together be hosting an evening policy dialogue, bringing together voices from government, academia, media, and technology to discuss practical and constitutional approaches to online speech.
Where: Welcom Hotel by ITC Hotels – Richmond Road
When: November 7, 4.30 pm

02 Sprinkle of joy

Kukdukoo Children's Festival is bringing a weekend of fun, laughter and magic, packed with spectacular activities for children and parents.
Where: Oakridge International School, Dommasandra;
When: November 29 and 30, 10.45 am

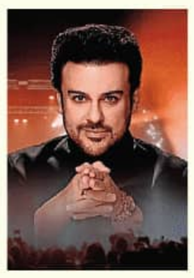
03 Anchored in awareness

Azim Premji University is presenting the 'Coasts and Oceans of Life', the fourth edition of its annual climate festival. Building on the success of earlier editions themed on rivers, forests, and mountains, this year's festival dives deep into the ecology, livelihoods, and imagination of the seas that shape India.
Where: Azim Premji University, Sarjapur;
When: October 27 to November 8

04 Creative capital

DesignUp25 — India's leading design and innovation festival —is bringing its 9th edition themed 'The Design Currency'. The three-day festival brings together top global and Indian design leaders from Adobe, Canva, JPMorgan Chase, Netflix, and more, exploring how design drives value in business, technology, and society.
When: November 3 to 5, 10 am to 7 pm

05 Tune in



Adnan Sami will be taking the stage for an unforgettable performance, set to take the audience on a melodious journey.
Where: Phoenix Marketcity, Whitefield;
When: November 9, 7 pm

Migratory raptor rescued from net entanglement

Bird placed under intensive care and observation at wildlife rescue centre; rescue underscores growing impact of human activity on fragile migratory species, says veterinarian

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A crested honey buzzard (Pernis ptilorhynchus), a migratory raptor seldom sighted around urban Bengaluru, was recently rescued from Bidadi after being found severely entangled in a net. The bird, believed to have been trapped for several hours, was suffering from extreme dehydration and exhaustion when discovered.

The injured buzzard was brought to the People for Animals (PfA) Wildlife Rescue and Conservation Centre, where it is currently under intensive care and observation. Over the years, PfA has rescued and treated more than 25,000 birds, many of them being victims of manjha (kite string) injuries or net entanglement — hazards that continue to threaten both resident and migratory species across the city's rapidly urbanising landscape.

Colonel Dr Navaz Shariff, Chief Wildlife Veterinarian at PfA, said that the bird underwent a comprehensive medical evaluation immediately upon admission. "Supportive therapy, including fluid replacement, nutritional supplementation, and rest, was initiated. Considering that crested honey buzzards are naturally shy and extremely sensitive to stress, we placed it in a quiet, dimly lit enclosure to minimise disturbance and aid recovery," he explained.

In keeping with its specialised diet, the rehabilitating bird has been offered honeybee combs containing honey and larvae. The crested honey buzzard is one of the few raptors that primarily feeds on honeybee and wasp larvae, wax, and honey. It possesses thick skin and dense feathers that protect it from bee and wasp stings while raiding nests — a remarkable evolutionary adaptation.

Crested honey buzzards feed on honeybee and wasp larvae, wax, and honey, possessing thick skin and dense feathers that protect it from stings while raiding nests

Once injured buzzard's feathers regenerate and it regains full flight strength, wildlife rescue and conservation centre team plans to release it back into its natural habitat

Once the buzzard's feathers regenerate and it regains full flight strength, the PfA team plans to release it back into its natural habitat. "The rescue of this elusive species not only underscores the critical role of wildlife rescue centres in conserving urban biodiversity but also highlights the growing impact of human activity — from indiscriminate netting to kite flying on fragile migratory species," added Col Dr Shariff.

In India, according to the State of India's Birds factsheet, its long-term and annual trends remain stable, and its distribution range is extensive. It is protected under India's legal regime, listed under Schedule II of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.

Dr Shariff pointed out that this incident serves as a stark reminder of the urgent need for public awareness and regulation to prevent needless harm to wildlife that share our cities.

Massive donation effort reaches local families

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A mega distribution event was held on November 2 in Jayanagar, showcasing four truckloads of pre-used clothes for men, women, and children, along with sarees, toys, books, and school stationery — all neatly arranged across various counters and efficiently managed by dedicated volunteers.

The beneficiaries from six underprivileged slum clusters participated in the event, choosing items freely from the counters — creating an experience much like shopping, filled with compassion and dignity.

Commending the volunteers for their efforts, Jayanagar MLA CK Ramamurthy expressed his commitment to supporting their future initiatives and extending continued cooperation.

Most of the pre-used items were collected over the past 30 days through the combined efforts of the Indian Ploggers Army and Helping Heroes India Foundation, with additional contributions from Sri Kumarans School.

The programme commenced at 10 am, with many beneficiaries arriving an hour in advance. MLA CK Ramamurthy inaugurated the event and distributed books to students as part of the initiative.

Younes Matheen of Helping Heroes India Foundation said that real happiness lies in seeing others smile. "Many said they felt like they were shopping in an open exhibition, choosing freely what they needed. Moments like these remind us why we do what we do, spreading kindness and dignity through simple acts of giving," said Matheen.

Rahul BM, a volunteer, opined that the event was a great success. "The objective of reuse and reduction was achieved," he said.

Private candidates face registration hurdles

The new online registration process for SSLC 2025 exams has become a major challenge for private candidates across Karnataka. Until last year, students could register directly through nearby schools, but this time the Education Department has made registration mandatory through a dedicated online portal. As a result, many candidates — especially those without digital access or technical support — are struggling to complete the process. Private students must now upload scanned copies of their photo, signature, TC, and Aadhaar card in specific file formats and make online fee payments via credit/debit card or net banking. Any minor error forces them to restart the entire process. Adding to their frustration, exam centres have been allotted far from their local areas, unlike earlier when they could write exams in nearby schools. With the registration deadline set for November 11, students are urging the department to simplify the process.
–BMB

PU lecturers to stage statewide protest

The Karnataka Pre-University College Lecturers' Association and the State Association of PU College Principals have announced a statewide protest on November 7, demanding that long-pending issues be resolved. Key demands include the release of Rs 13.5 crore in unpaid honorarium for II PUC answer paper evaluation, filling of vacant lecturer and principal posts, and strengthening of deputy director offices by appointing two senior principals as assistant directors. The associations decided to hold demonstrations at all district headquarters, submitting memorandum to deputy commissioners at 4 pm on November 7. If their demands remain unmet, they plan to organise a one-day dharna in Bengaluru within the next 20 days.
–BMB

Advertising tender fails to draw in bidders

The Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) has withdrawn the new advertising tender process launched by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) after it failed to attract bidders under the city's revised advertising bylaws. Despite targeting a revenue of Rs 500 crore and participation from over 50 firms in the pre-bid meeting, only two companies showed interest, forcing GBA to cancel the tenders issued in late July.

The new rules, modelled on Delhi's advertising regulations, required winning firms to pay five times the bid amount as an advance, a clause that drove smaller companies away. Officials admitted this provision was a key deterrent. GBA has now begun drafting a revised policy that will incorporate industry feedback and offer flexibility for local and small-scale firms.

Advertising firms cited high costs, tight deadlines for obtaining NOCs, and cumbersome documentation requirements as reasons for opting out.
–BMB

Man loses over ₹32 lakh in dating scam

Fraudsters lure man in with prospect of meeting with socialites; prompted to complete payments before final meet-up is arranged, man transfers sum in multiple instalments before discovering scam

In yet another case exposing the evolving tactics of cyber fraudsters, a 63-year-old Bengaluru resident was duped of over Rs 32 lakh after falling prey to an online dating scam that promised meetings with 'high-society women'.

According to the complaint registered at the Cyber Crime Police Station (East Division), the victim received a phone call from an unknown number, where the caller claimed to represent a "high-profile dating service." The caller offered to arrange a meeting with a "high-society woman" in exchange for a one-time registration fee.

Believing the offer to be genuine, the complainant transferred Rs 1,950 to the bank account provided by the caller. Shortly after the payment, he received photographs of three women and was asked to choose one for an arranged meeting. Once he selected a profile, he was introduced to a woman who identified herself as Ritika. The two began chatting over WhatsApp, during which the woman promised to meet him in person soon.

A few days later, she told the victim that she would be travelling elsewhere for Navratri and asked him not to call or message her during that time.

The complainant later received a call from a woman identifying herself as Priti, who promised to arrange a meeting with Ritika. She explained that the meeting could only be confirmed after completing several "formalities," including payment for the same. Believing her claims, the complainant began transferring money in multiple instalments to different bank accounts. Each time, Priti assured him that the meeting would happen soon. However, with repeated delays and excuses, the payments continued until the complainant had transferred a total of approximately Rs 32.2 lakh.

Authorities warn public to stay alert as scammers lure victims with promises of companionship, jobs, or investments, then exploit trust to steal money through online transactions

When the individuals stopped responding to his calls and messages, the victim realised he had been deceived and approached the police to file a formal complaint.

The police have registered a case under Section 66(C) and 66(D) of the Information Technology Act (pertaining to identity theft and cheating by personation using computer resources) and Section 318(4) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) (relating to cheating by personation).

1,081 online money transfer frauds reported this year

The state police's official data reveals that 1,081 cases of online money transfer fraud have been reported so far this year, with 165 incidents recorded in September alone. Authorities have cautioned the public to be vigilant against such scams, where fraudsters entice victims with promises of companionship including matrimony frauds, employment, or investment opportunities, gradually winning their trust before siphoning off large sums through complex online transactions.

Citizens are urged to stay alert to unsolicited calls or messages and to verify the authenticity of any source before making financial transfers online. **BMB**

Luxury car tax scam: Charge sheet filed in ₹20 crore RTO fraud

The probe into a massive luxury car lifetime road tax evasion racket at the Koramangala (Central) RTO has been completed, with the HSR Layout police filing a detailed charge sheet before the magistrate's court.

The investigation revealed a large-scale scam involving registration of 107 luxury cars without paying lifetime tax, causing an estimated Rs 20.28 crore loss to the state exchequer. Officials and staff allegedly pocketed tax payments collected from car owners, created fake receipts, and tampered with RTO registers to make the entries appear legitimate.

Among those named are retired RTO officers, data entry operators, and former staff. The audit report, covering the period between October 2022 and March 2023, confirmed widespread manipulation; missing payment records for 960 vehicles, and forged receipts for at least 17 high-end cars.

Several officers, including a suspended First Division Assistant and other senior officials now in higher posts, are under scrutiny for dereliction of duty, according to sources. Authorities have already recovered over ₹3 crore in unpaid tax from vehicle owners following notices. **BMB**

Maid arrested for brutally killing pet dog inside lift

In a horrifying incident, a domestic worker has been arrested for brutally killing a pet dog inside a lift.
The incident took place on October 31 under the jurisdiction of Bagaluru Police Station. According to police, the house help, identified as Pushpalatha, had taken two dogs belonging to her employer, Rashi Poojary, for a walk. On returning, CCTV footage captured her entering the lift with one of the dogs named Goofy and smashing it twice on the floor before strangling it to death.

Later, Pushpalatha claimed that the dog had collapsed during the walk. However, the truth emerged when Rashi Poojary reviewed the CCTV footage and shared it on social media, exposing the brutal act.

The video has triggered widespread outrage among animal lovers and the general public. Based on Poojary's complaint, Bagaluru police have registered a case under the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act. The accused has been taken into custody for further investigation. **BMB**

Hydroponic ganja worth ₹37.88 crore seized at B'luru airport

In a major drug bust, the Bengaluru Customs Air Intelligence Unit (AIU) intercepted a passenger arriving from Bangkok via Dubai at Kempegowda International Airport's Terminal 2 on October 29, 2025.

During inspection, officials discovered hydroponic ganja concealed within the passenger's baggage. The seized contraband is estimated to be worth Rs 37.88 crore in the illicit market.

Customs officials have initiated legal action against the passenger under the provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985.

Further investigation is underway to trace the source and intended recipients of the narcotics. **BMB**

Meeting held to review progress of 163 murder cases under trial in North-East division

The North-East Division Police convened a meeting with complainants and victims of ongoing murder cases to address delays and strengthen coordination for speedy trials.

According to officials, a total of 163 murder cases were currently under trial across various police stations in the North-East Division.

During the session, complainants and victims shared their grievances. Detailed discussions were held on measures to expedite the judicial process, including ensuring the timely production of witnesses, tracing and arresting accused persons who have absconded after being granted bail, and coordinating closely with the prosecution department.

The meeting was chaired by Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) North-East Sajith V, and attended by all sub-divisional ACPs, police inspectors, and court staff.

The DCP also provided specific instructions and suggestions to officers to ensure effective follow-up of pending cases and to work towards speedy justice and strict punishment for the accused. **BMB**

Nigerian woman caught dropping drugs in Kodigehalli, 35 grams of MDMA seized

In a swift and alert response by residents, a 35-year-old Nigerian woman was caught while attempting to drop off drugs at a residential location in Kodigehalli on Sunday evening.

According to police, the woman arrived at the location around 4.15 pm and was seen taking photos of a house, which raised suspicion among residents. When confronted, she tried to walk away, but the house owner, growing suspicious, followed her and saw her entering a cellar and dumping the bag with drugs into a dustbin. The resident immediately alerted others, and the police were informed.

Upon arrival, Kodigehalli police reviewed CCTV footage that clearly showed the woman disposing of the drugs in the dustbin. A total of 35 grams of MDMA was seized from the spot.

The accused, who was staying in Thanisandra on a business visa, has been found to have visa irregularities as well. She has been remanded to judicial custody, and police are now investigating her background, the source of the drugs, and her client network.

A case has been registered under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, and further investigation is underway. **BMB**

Narcotics worth ₹21 crore worth seized in 3 weeks via postal routes

Bengaluru is witnessing a surge in foreign-origin narcotics being smuggled through international courier and postal parcels, with drug traffickers exploiting loopholes in screening systems. In just the past three weeks, the CCB and Postal Vigilance teams have seized drugs worth over Rs 21 crore, including hydro ganja, MDMA crystals, and synthetic substances, and arrested four foreign nationals from South Africa and Thailand.

Officials say traffickers are now concealing drugs in chocolates, biscuits, and pet food parcels, making them nearly undetectable to metal detectors. Earlier manual checks had curbed the menace, but since advanced scanning replaced human inspections, contraband is once again slipping through with ease.

The postal warehouses have become key transit points, prompting intensified raids by CCB with sniffer dog units.

Despite relentless efforts by local police and anti-narcotics teams, the drug inflow continues to rise annually, raising alarm over Bengaluru's growing role as a hub for international drug smuggling.

Authorities admit that raids currently happen only upon specific complaints, allowing many shipments to pass undetected through airports, seaports, and postal channels masked under food product consignments. **BMB**

Jayanagar traders push for India's first smart market

Traders push for smart marketplace with Wi-Fi, solar lighting, and infrastructure

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KAUSHIK JN

The estimated project cost, as per the JTA, is around 25 crore

For over eight years, the Jayanagar Traders Association (JTA) has been urging the government to develop India's first smart shopping hub at Jayanagar 3rd and 4th Block. With over 1,500 stores spread across 15 lanes, the area is already one of Bengaluru's most prominent shopping destinations. In 2017, a proposal was floated to transform it into a smart shopping complex. However, despite several letters from the government to the BBMP to implement it, the plan did not move forward, and in 2019, the Covid pandemic caused further setbacks.

According to the Jayanagar Traders Association, with more than 1,500 commercial and business establishments in the 3rd and 4th Blocks of Jayanagar, this locality is among the largest retail markets in Bengaluru. It caters to all sections of society and contributes significantly to GST, Income Tax, and Service Tax revenues. Many multinational brands have established outlets in the area. The locality also includes colleges, government offices, a bus stand, auto stands, and a railway reservation counter, with the project covering a total area of 63.60 acres.

Prakash Mandoth, Founder-President of the Jayanagar Traders Association, said, "Jayanagar sees a daily footfall of around five lakh people. Roads such as 8th E, 8th F, 9th and 9th A Main, 10th Main, 11th Main, 22nd Cross, 27th and 27th A Cross, 30th Cross, and four roads of Geetha Colony are major transit routes with heavy vehicle movement, adding to the area's potential to become a hotspot as the Jayanagar Smart Business Hub."

Other facilities

- Beautification of Junctions & Main Circle & depict heritage of Karnataka & Bengaluru.
- Decorative lights on both sides of Footpaths.
- Solar lights on both sides of Footpaths.
- Water huts
- Pollution level details kiosk
- Facilities for people with disabilities
- Automated parking facility

The estimated project cost, as per the JTA, is around 25 crore. They believe the investment is justified, given the strong potential returns once operational. A few years ago, TenderSURE roads were developed in Jayanagar, but work remained incomplete — only half the work was finished on 27th Cross, 30th Cross, 9th Main, and 10th Main of the 4th Block. Space was left along footpaths for tree plantation, but planting was not completed, and the areas remain vacant. Residents planted saplings in some spots," said Mandoth.

Currently, shopping streets such as Brigade Road and Commercial Street are single-lane stretches, but Jayanagar has 14 shopping lanes filled with diverse stores. This could create a unique retail experience if the smart shopping hub is implemented. Some of the proposed facilities include LED streetlights, benches, a dedicated pedestrian street, hawker zones, digital screens with market information, solar-powered lighting, a water fountain, public toilets, cab drop-off and pick-up points, multilevel parking, Wi-Fi, trader information kiosks, cycle bays, electric vehicle charging stations, an amphitheatre, CCTV surveillance, ambient music, garbage management systems, battery-operated buggies, and food stalls.

> **"Space was left along footpaths for tree plantation, but planting was not completed, and the areas remain vacant — residents themselves planted saplings in some spots**
> – Prakash Mandoth, Founder-President, Jayanagar Traders Association

The concept aims to create a world-class street-retail experience by developing a smart, digital, and lively outdoor shopping destination. The goal is to draw customers back from e-commerce platforms and malls to traditional street shopping, offering an enriching outdoor family experience with digital business support and home delivery options.

Prabhu Singh, Secretary of the Jayanagar Traders Association, added, "We want to bring back the outdoor shopping experience and create vibrant public spaces. Our goal is to revive the heritage of Jayanagar's 3rd Block and BDA 4th Block market. We want to build a smart marketplace while enhancing greenery and ensuring international standards of public utility and infrastructure."

Weekend trash fires plague KR Puram locals

Woverflowing garbage piles have long been a familiar sight in the city, residents say an equally alarming problem is now going up in smoke — literally. Illegal trash burning, particularly on weekends, has become a recurring menace in several parts of Bengaluru, with KR Puram's Diesel Locomotive Shed Road emerging as a major hotspot. Locals allege that heaps of uncollected garbage are set to ablaze every Saturday evening and Sunday, allegedly by BBMP contractors, releasing thick, toxic fumes into the air.

Despite repeated complaints and messages to civic officials, no effective action has been taken, residents say. The burning of mixed waste — including plastic, rubber, and other hazardous materials — poses serious health and environmental risks, worsening the city's already poor air quality.

Burning waste releases toxins, worsening city's air quality

Residents complain that instead of fixing lapses in waste collection and segregation, contractors resort to burning as a shortcut, leaving nearby neighbourhoods engulfed in smoke. Environmental experts warn that such unchecked burning not only adds to air pollution but also undermines Bengaluru's waste management efforts. Citizens are now urging the BBMP to take strict action against contractors and officials who ignore the recurring problem. **–BMB**

Tired of neglect, residents plan Roadathon protest

Residents of 14 communities in Phase 2, Electronic City, and neighbouring areas have waited over two decades for basic road infrastructure. Frustrated by years of neglect, they are now planning a Community Roadathon on November 29 to draw the attention of authorities.

Major stretches in Huskur, Ananth Nagar, and Singena Agrahara, under the Hebbagodi and Chandapura constituencies, remain in deplorable condition. Cratered surfaces, unfinished utility cuts, and recurring potholes have turned commutes across this vital Bengaluru–Anekal belt into a daily ordeal. Despite multiple deadlines for city-wide pothole repairs, including those in October and November, residents allege no lasting action has been taken.

"The same hole reappears weeks after patchwork. Trucks brake hard, and bikes skid when it rains," said a resident from Ananth Nagar.

Huskur Market Road and Huskur–Sarjapur Road, catering to dense residential pockets and heavy truck traffic, are among the worst affected. Dust from loose gravel has worsened respiratory ailments among children and seniors.

Dust potholes broken patches turning daily commutes exhausting unsafe ordeal for thousands of residents in E City Phase 2

Two-wheeler riders face the highest risk. A 26-year-old banker recently died on Huskur Main Road after a pothole-related skid.

Residents say neglect has eroded morale. "Enough is enough — treat this belt as a vital city artery," said a resident. **–BMB**

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Problems in your area?
Send us a picture along with specific details. And please, no phone calls or spamming

Toxic flames
Austin Town

Garbage burning continues unchecked opposite the football ground in Austin Town, filling the area with smoke and foul odour.

Garbage zone
Chikkalasandra

Despite repeated complaints to the BBMP, the CA site opposite an apartment on Chikkalasandra Main Road continues to serve as a daily garbage dump.

Ignored appeals
Primrose Road

Debris and stones dumped at the entrance of a church on Primrose Road continue to block access, as garbage piles up despite repeated appeals to the contractor.

Burial on private land: State must respond

The Karnataka High Court on Monday sought the state government's response on whether permission is required to bury a body on private land and whether the consent of the property owner is mandatory for such burial.

Justice Suraj Govindaraj issued the direction while hearing a petition filed by H Gopala Gowda, who challenged an endorsement dated June 25, 2025 by the Assistant Commissioner, Revenue Department, Kolar Sub-Division. The official had rejected Gowda's plea to exhume the body of his daughter-in-law, allegedly buried illegally within his residential premises, and to dispose of it in accordance with the law.

During the hearing, the court orally remarked, "It cannot be on a person's property if they object. It can be by consent, but even by consent, can you permit the burial of a body without any permission? This would set a dangerous precedent, and if you support it like this and we make the order, it would be even worse."

According to the plea, the petitioner's son and the deceased were married but living separately due to marital discord, with matrimonial proceedings pending. The deceased allegedly died by suicide at her parents' home, about 25 km from the petitioner's residence. Following her death, her mother lodged a criminal complaint.

Gowda alleged that on August 24, 2024, the deceased's relatives, with Mahila Sanghatana, buried the body on his property without consent.

IN COURT

The petition says this violates Section 95 of the Karnataka Gram Swaraj and Panchayat Raj Act.

The court scheduled hearing for November 24 and directed him to serve copies to all respondents by November 5.

—BMB

'Formulate humane policy' for bereaved

The Karnataka High Court set aside NWKRTC's decision rejecting a widow's plea for compassionate appointment for exceeding the age limit. Justice M Nagaprasanna partly allowed Saroja Kondai's petition challenging endorsements dated January 17 and May 10, 2025, and directed the Corporation to reconsider her application within eight weeks.

The bench referred to a previous ruling directing NWKRTC to appoint another widow without insisting on the age cap, noting that age should not defeat the purpose of compassionate relief. The court said, "Merely because the applicant's age exceeds 43 years, the appointment cannot be denied. Cases of this nature must be regulated by formulating a humane policy."

Citing the Supreme Court in Canara Bank vs Ajithkumar GK (2025), it emphasised that compassionate appointments focus on family need, not technical limits. Kondai's husband, a Driver-cum-Conductor, died in service in September 2023, and her plea had been rejected as she was 47, above the 43-year cut-off. The court held the rejection unsustainable and directed reconsideration in line with precedent.

The Corporation must now consider relaxing Kondai's age. Justice Nagaprasanna said, "Focus of any compassionate appointment scheme must be on the family's need rather than technical limitations." The order urges prioritising family welfare over strict age limits. It also sets a precedent for similar cases.

—BMB

Animal lovers push for clear feeding rules in govt offices

Welfare groups urge clear rules for feeding stray dogs inside government offices, stressing collaboration with caregivers to ensure safety, proper vaccination, and population control

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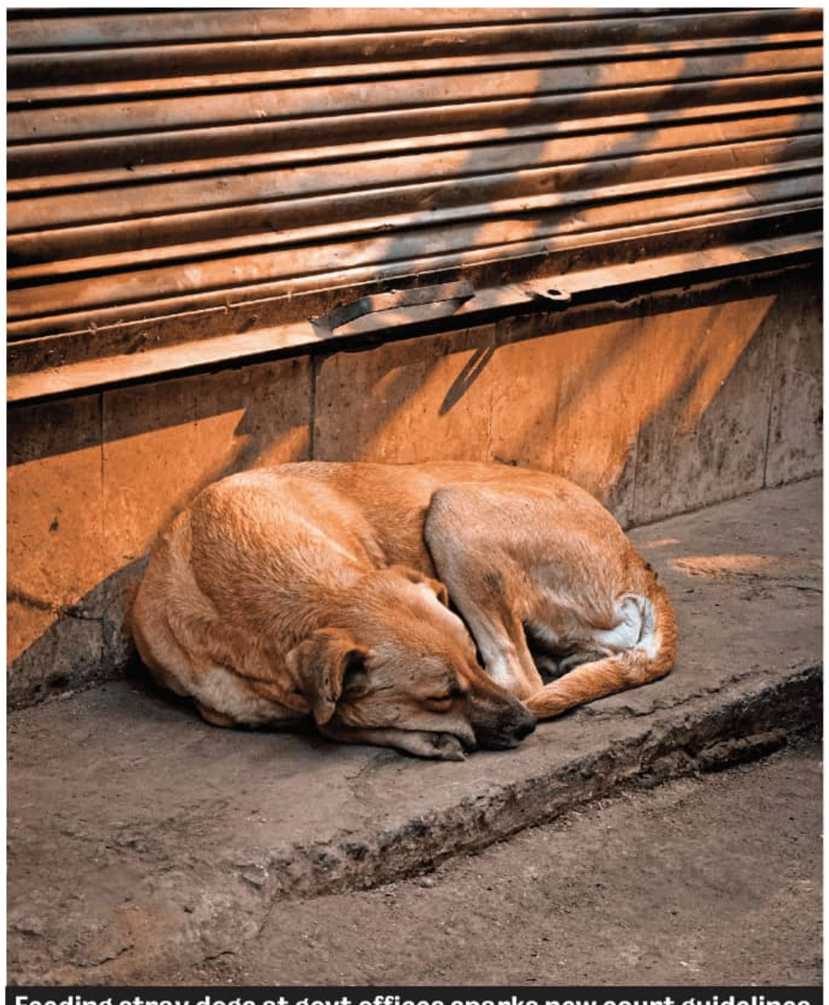
The Supreme Court, on Monday observed that it will issue directions to regulate the feeding of stray dogs inside government building premises.

A three-judge bench, comprising Justices Vikram Nath, Sandeep Mehta, and NV Anjaria, noted that the order will be uploaded over the next few days.

According to Sahavarthin Animal Welfare Trust, a city-based NGO that is a party to the stray dog matter before the Supreme Court, the order is expected to follow the feeding-spot guidelines given in the August 22, order.

"Observations made by the judges during the hearing indicated that the order will be on the same lines as that of August 22, stating that spots should be away from crowded places and areas frequented by children and the elderly. However, some government building premises in the city are extensive, and it will be difficult to round up dogs if the number of feeding spots is limited. Nonetheless, given that the earlier Supreme Court order has not yet been implemented by the GBA, it is difficult to predict what will emerge from the fresh guidelines," said Sadhana Hegde, founder of Sahavarthin Animal Welfare Trust, a city-based NGO working to assist feeders in harassment cases, assign feeding spots, resolve conflicts, and simplify the FIR filing process.



Feeding stray dogs at govt offices sparks new court guidelines

Activists say current feeding practices on govt office grounds are unregulated, urging authorities to formalise zones and prevent harassment of caregivers

City-based animal caregivers and welfare workers say defined guidelines on feeding stray dogs inside government building premises would be a step towards better management of the stray dog population, given that, currently, feeders and caregivers do not have access to many of these premises, with stray dogs surviving on scraps.

However, feeding spots, even on government building premises, should be decided in consultation with caregivers.

"In Bengaluru, it is citizens who are feeding stray dogs even on government office campuses. The responsibility to manage these street dogs should lie with the respective government offices, in association with caregivers. Such a step will help ensure better management of the stray dog population through Animal Birth Control surgeries and immunisation. It will be a collective win for the city and state and will lead to a safe, compassionate environment," said Harini Raghavan of Citizens for Animal Birth Control.

New urban bodies take charge of court chaos

Following the division of the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) into five new municipal corporations, the city's legal landscape is also undergoing a major restructuring. Over 6,000 pending court cases — currently before the High Court and various city courts — are being redistributed among the new corporations in line with their respective territorial boundaries. Each of the five corporations is expected to take on 1,200 to 1,300 cases, covering issues ranging from property tax disputes to civic infrastructure and encroachment matters. Newly filed cases will automatically be tagged to the jurisdiction of the respective corporations based on location, while older cases, in which the BBMP was originally listed as a respondent, are being reassigned through a new online tracking and allocation system.

Earlier, the BBMP's legal cell handled all litigation, coordinating with over 120 advocates. With BBMP replaced by the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) and five corporations, case-management responsibilities are now divided. Road maintenance, tax, and grants fall under the GBA, while lake development, encroachment, and ward-level disputes go to the five corporations.

Chandrashekar Patil, head of the BBMP legal cell, said the team will continue until new legal departments are formed, with redistribution expected to be completed soon.

—BMB

Police face heat after assaulting house help over theft claim

A 34-year-old domestic worker and her husband were allegedly detained and brutally assaulted by the Varthur police after she was accused of stealing a diamond ring from the home of a techie couple she worked for. Sundari Bibi has requested the Karnataka State Human Rights Commission to take strict legal action against the Varthur police personnel responsible for the assault.

The incident reportedly took place on October 30. Sundari, a domestic worker from West Bengal, has been living in the city for eight years. She had worked for a techie couple for the past three months. On Thursday, she and her husband were summoned to the Varthur police station after her employers filed a theft complaint.

According to sources, CCTV footage reportedly captured Sundari picking up a note. In her statement, Sundari explained that she had planned to hand it over to the homeowner. Before she could do so, her employer confronted her and accused her of stealing. The couple also claimed that a diamond ring had gone missing and alleged her involvement.

Sundari said she was taken to the Varthur police station around 9 am and called her

House help and spouse assaulted inside police station following theft accusation. Intervention by city-based activists led to release. Medical evidence shows bruises and lacerations. Human rights and women's commissions call for strict action

husband, who immediately joined her. She alleged that four male and three female officers assaulted them for nearly three hours. She told the media the officers beat her with lathis and hurled abuses in Kannada. Her husband was also allegedly beaten when he tried to protect her.

Her cries reportedly reached nearby migrant labourers, who alerted social activist R. Kaleemulla. He contacted the police station, after which Sundari was released. According to medical reports, she had sustained injuries to her head, buttocks, back, and other parts of her body.

The Karnataka State Commission for Women has written to the DCP, Whitefield, condemning the assault. The Commission noted that Sundari was beaten, including on her private parts, and has urged a thorough investigation and strict action against the officers involved.

City Police Commissioner Seemanth Kumar Singh said this is a serious issue. The Joint Commissioner is investigating the case, and authorities will review the investigation report before taking appropriate action.

—BMB

Officials must get their act together before 'it's too late

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

An environmentalist explained the possible reasons for this devastation. "With worsening air pollution and fewer trees to trap dust, the city's ecosystem is deteriorating. Bengaluru ideally needs seven trees per person, but with a population of 1.4 crore and only 7.5 million trees, the imbalance is stark. On average, the city experiences wind speeds of 10–40 km/h, occasionally touching 50 km/h during storms. Poorly rooted and weakened trees simply cannot withstand these conditions, leading to frequent collapses," he said.

Lives lost

Falling trees and branches have caused several tragic incidents. A young schoolboy and a man in Banashankari lost their lives this monsoon after branches fell on them, while six others were injured. Despite such recurring accidents, the GBA's Forest Department has been accused of failing to take preventive action. With just 20 officers and staff to manage the city's vast tree cover, effective maintenance and inspection remain a challenge. Officials admit manpower shortage is a major hurdle in ensuring safety and sustainability.

Official data reveals that last year (April–August 2023), 531 trees and 2,010 branches had fallen — the figures have more than doubled this year, exposing the failure of preventive measures. Experts point to the Forest Department's lax approach, coupled with rapid concretisation and flawed urban design, as key reasons for the escalating problem.

While crores are spent each year to beautify the city through road and footpath concreting, the same projects are ironically killing the city's greenery. Tree bases are being cemented and paved over, blocking rainwater absorption and oxygen flow to the roots. Environmentalist AN Yellappa Reddy said, "Excessive heat, poor soil aeration, and lack of water are pushing Bengaluru's trees to collapse. If this continues unchecked, the city's future will be at risk."

Charges framed against Darshan, others

A Karnataka court on Monday framed the charges against jailed Kannada superstar Darshan, his partner Pavithra Gowda, and 15 other accused in the sensational fan murder case.

Darshan and all other accused denied all charges against them in the case of the gruesome murder of his fan Renukaswamy here on June 8, 2024. Renukaswamy was kidnapped from his hometown, Chitradurga, brought to Bengaluru, kept in a shed, and tortured to death.After the murder, his body was thrown into a canal. The incident came to light after the security personnel of a private apartment building saw the body being dragged by a pack of dogs.

Judge Erappanna Pavadi Naik read out the charges against Darshan, Pavithra Gowda, and the other accused and sought their response. The court also asked them to confirm whether they were able to hear the charges clearly. Subsequently, the judge announced that the date for the trial would be fixed on November 10 and adjourned the matter. **BMB**

SC relief for multiplexes

The Supreme Court has stayed a Karnataka High Court directive requiring multiplexes in the State to maintain auditable records of every movie ticket sold, pending adjudication of the challenge to the State Government's decision to cap ticket prices at Rs 200.

A Bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta passed the interim order while issuing notice on petitions filed by the Multiplex Association of India and other theatre operators assailing the High Court's directions.

The Bench, however, clarified that the single-judge bench of the Karnataka High Court may continue hearing the substantive challenge to the State's decision to fix a price ceiling.

Background of the dispute

On September 23, a single-judge bench of the Karnataka High Court had stayed the operation of the Karnataka Cinemas (Regulation) (Amendment) Rules, 2025, which capped the ticket price at Rs 200. The State government appealed the interim stay before a division bench.

While the division bench refused to vacate the stay, it issued a set of interim directions to ensure financial accountability during the pendency of the case. Multiplexes were directed to maintain detailed, auditable records for each ticket sold - including date, time, mode of booking and payment, GST component, and receipts for cash transactions.

The order also required multiplexes to file monthly consolidated sales reports and allow their verification by a Chartered Accountant. Non-compliance, the Court said, would automatically trigger the application of the government's price cap notification.

The directions were challenged before the Supreme Court by the Multiplex Association, which argued that the conditions were "impractical and unworkable" given the current system of online ticketing.

Arguments before the Supreme Court

Appearing for the petitioners, Senior Advocate Mukul Rohatgi contended that the High Court's directions ignored the practical realities of ticket sales. "Most tickets are sold through online intermediaries such as BookMyShow. The judges think tickets are sold over the counter - they're not. We don't maintain IDs or personal details of buyers," he submitted, adding that the requirement to record identity proof for cash transactions was "unreasonable and impossible to comply with."

The State, defending the High Court's order, said the directions were meant only to ensure that consumers could be refunded if the State ultimately succeeded in defending the price cap. "If your Lordship pays Rs 1,000 today and the State later wins, you will get Rs 800 back," the State's counsel explained. Senior Advocate Shyam Divan, representing another petitioner, argued that the State lacked statutory authority to impose a ticket price ceiling.

Court's observations

During the hearing, Justice Vikram Nath made a few sharp observations on the issue of cinema pricing. "You charge Rs 700 for a ticket and Rs 100 for water - prices should be reasonable. Otherwise, the halls will remain empty," he remarked.

Rohatgi responded that viewers had the option of choosing between multiplexes and smaller single-screen theatres, to which Justice Nath quipped, "There are no normal ones left." Although the Bench stayed the specific directions regarding maintenance of records, it noted that pricing in the film industry should be made "reasonable" to encourage audiences to return to cinemas. The Court was hearing appeals against the Karnataka High Court's September 30 order, which had imposed the interim record-keeping arrangement pending the final outcome of the price-cap challenge. The matter will next be heard after notices are served to all respondents. **BMB**

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CHANGE OF NAME

I, SUKANYA BAI ENGLE ESWAR (Old Name). W/o Surendar Rao J.L, residing at # 122, 3rd Cross, Near Dayananda Sagar College, Rajyothsavanagara, Kumaraswamy Layout 2nd Stage, Bangalore-560078, have changed my name to SUKANYA ESWAR JAGDALE (New Name) vide affidavit dated: 31/10/2025 Before Notary V.Rajashekhara Bangalore.

I, Mrs KUMARI SHIBULAL W/o SD SHIBULAL R/o 383, 42nd Cross, 9th Main, Jayanagar 5th BLock, Bangalore 560040, have changed my name from KUMARY PD D/O PERIKILATH CHACKO DANIEL to KUMARI SHIBULAL W/o SD SHIBULAL for all future purposes.

I, MOHD HANEEF residing at # No .145, 5th Cross, Idga Mohalla, Bangaragiri Nagar, DJ Halli, Bangalore-560045. I have changed my name to MOHAMMED HANEEF. Vide affidavit dated 31/10/2025 sworn before notary. Chandrashekar M Bangalore

I, Arun Gowda Malohalli Chandrashekar S/O, Chandrashekar Malohalli Neelappa R/o No 10 Sumukha Nilaya 1st Cross Ramarao Layout Kathriguppe, Bsk 3rd Stage Bengaluru 560085 have changed my name to Arun Gowda for all purposes.

I, MOHMED MOHSIN residing at# No. 145, 5th Cross, Idga Mohalla, Bangaragiri Nagar, DJ Halli, Bangalore-560045. I have changed my name to MOHAMMED MOHSIN. Vide affidavit dated 31/10/2025 sworn before notary. Chandrashekar M Bangalore.

I, Satyabhama M N D/o Narasimagowda M P R/o 53/6, Vinayaka Lyt,Near Renuka yellamma temple,Halanayakan -ahalli,B'luru 560035 have chan -ged my name to Sathyabhama M N. I shall called by this name for all purposes

I, MAKARAND VAIRAGARE, Residing at No L1, 26th Main,5th Cross, Near R V Dental College, J P Nagar Phase 1, Bangalore-560078, Have changed our minor daughter name from SHARVANI VAIRAGARE to, SHARVANI MAKARAND VAIRAGARE vide affidavit dated 31/10/2025 sworn before Notary Aravind Patil G.G Bangalore

I, USHA BAI ENGLE ESWAR (Old Name), W/o L.K Manjunath, residing at # 2089, East End B Main, Pump House, 9th Block Jayanagar, Bangalore-560 069, have changed my name to USHA MANJUNATH (New Name) vide affidavit dated: 31/10/2025 Before Notary V.Rajashekhara Bangalore.

I, Nikhila Reddy Sathya Narayana w/o Chandan C R #1884 22nd Main HSR Layout Blr-02 have changed my name to Nikhila Reddy for all purposes.

I Rohith son of lokanatha.M residing at #4 (401) 4th floor 8th cross Shivanandanagar Bengaluru 560072 have changed my name to Rohith Lokanatha for all purpose

I, Sanjan N R Gowda S/o Ramesh Nervani Puttegowda R/o Ganapati Katte,Katteh -aklu, Patlamane, Thirthahalli, Shivamogga 577415 KA have changed my name to Sanjan Nervani Ramesh

I, DATHA MURTHY VISWANATH BHAT, R/o No.4B, Ground Flr, 9th Main, 12th Cross, Ganapathi Nagar, Bengaluru – 560026, have changed my name to DATTAMURTHY VISHWANATH BHAT, vide affidavit dated 08/10/2025, sworn before notary Venkataraju H G, Bangalore.

I, Thimmaraju Thimmaiah R/o No 1184 sir m.v vishwesh waraiah Layout 7th Block Muddanapalya viswaneedam post Bengaluru 560091 have changed my name to Thimmaraju Appagere for all Purposes.

I Prakash, S/o. Chandrashekhar, aged about 33 years, residing at B107, Gopalan Florenza, 11th Block, Banashankari 6th Stage, Srinivaspura, Bangalore 560060. I have changed my name to PRAKASH PATIL, VIDE AFFIDAVIT DATED:01.11.2025 before notary N Sandhya, Bangalore

I, MOHSINA TAJ residing at # No. 33, Vishveshwaraiah Nagar Main Road, DJ Halli, Bangalore-560045.I have changed my name to MOHSIENA. Vide affidavit dated 31/10/2025 sworn before notary. Chandrashekar M Bangalore

I, Thousif Khan, R/O No. 5721, Maruthi Extension, Malur Town – 563130, Karnataka, have changed my name from Thousif Pasha to Thousif Khan for all purposes.

LOST & FOUND

I, Ramaiah S/O Dodda Muniyappa residing at No 246, Manchanahalli, Mayasandra, Bengaluru.I have lost my (original Register mother deed of Bantval Vaman Baliga and Bantval Bharath Baliga) and (sale deed of site sy no 72, site no 93/35, katha 153, VSG LAKE VIEW of Bakthipura(vi), Mayasandra panchayath Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Doc No ABL-1-05113-2011-12 CD NO ABLD93. Dt: 15/02/2012 register in Senior Sub Register Attibele) at Attibele Bus Stand Near on 17/10/2025. If anybody find please handover to the nearest police station or above mentioned address.

LOST: I, Coona Sunderaj Rampriyadas son of Sri. Late C K Sunderaj, have lost original sale deed of the property bearing No.107, Nidus Apartments Drafadila Layout, Bangalore-560070, document 7100/2002-03 on 06/09/2002 and registered at Sub Registrar Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore, which was not available at the time of regn and for which Certified Copy was obtained by the seller at that time. Regarding this i have given a police complaint (1882124/2025) dt: 03.11.2025, Finder pls contact: 9845106406 or Handover to the nearest police station.

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Forest plastic ban not effective

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Foundation of Ecology and Education Development.

Conservationists say that instead of a general guideline on 'single-use plastics', specific guidelines on different types of plastic items found discarded in forest areas are the need of the hour.

"We have spotted sanitary napkins in elephants' dung in Bandipur forests. The Minister should issue guidelines about these items, rather than just about single-use plastics. Moreover, resorts located in forest areas should be held accountable for many of these items," added Belagere.

Conservationists point out that while a ban on plastic items in forest areas is already in place by the MoEF&CC, implementation has been lax. Rather than frontline staff of the state forest department manning these check posts and cleaning plastic from forests, Eco Development Committees (EDCs) of every reserve's Tiger Foundation should be involved in the process.

"The Karnataka Forest Department does not have sufficient manpower to conduct this exercise. Every Tiger Foundation associated with tiger reserves in the state has EDCs. The Forest Department should engage the committee members in conducting the checks. EDCs can be monitored and supervised by the department in the same way as watchers at Anti-Poaching Camps are handled. This will serve the dual purpose of an inspection drive while generating employment for local communities," said a wildlife conservationist.

Experts also underline the lack of awareness among the public about rules regarding the use of plastic items in forest areas.

"Lack of awareness is an important concern. The EDCs or department officials conducting the inspection can also generate awareness among the public about these rules. However, it is not just the Forest Department's responsibility to keep forests free of plastic items. The public also has an important role to play," added the conservationist.

Ration card portability dips amid stricter state scrutiny

State sees a 5% fall in intra-state ONORC use, while interstate transactions remain negligible despite full scheme rollout

Sridhar.Vivan@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @sridharVMIRROR

Tigher monitoring at fair price shops ensures timely rations for migrant families and rural people

The portability system under the One Nation, One Ration Card (ONORC) scheme — designed to help migrant workers access rations anywhere in the country — has witnessed a noticeable decline in Karnataka this year.

Data presented in the Legislative Assembly shows that between January and July 2025, intra-state portability transactions dropped from 11.99 lakh in January to 11.39 lakh in July, reflecting a 5% decrease. While Karnataka recorded more than 81 lakh intra-state portability transactions in the first seven months of the year, inter-state usage has remained minimal. Only 2,647 ration transactions were recorded by migrants from other states in Karnataka during the same period — a negligible fraction compared to the state's overall numbers.

Responding to concerns raised by legislators, Food and Civil Supplies Minister KH Muniyappa said the portability feature under ONORC has been "fully and effectively implemented" across Karnataka. He emphasised that the scheme's key objective is to ensure that migrant workers — whether moving between districts or states — continue to receive their entitled rations without disruption.

Legislators also highlighted the challenges faced by senior citizens who struggle with biometric authentication while collecting rations. Addressing these issues, Muniyappa clarified that the government has introduced provisions for iris scans as an alternative to fingerprints. In rare cases where both biometric and iris authentication fail; rations are still being disbursed under exemption clauses to prevent denial of food entitlements.

The minister added that the government has withdrawn the One-Time Password (OTP) system, which

Karnataka's ONORC ration probability dipped, prompting iris scans and stricter shop monitoring for smoother distribution

earlier complicated portability access for beneficiaries. To streamline distribution, ration delivery is now based strictly on the final stock balances available at local fair price shops. In situations where a shop runs out of stock or refuses rations, beneficiaries are redirected to nearby outlets with adequate reserves.

To ensure accountability and transparency, officials have been instructed to monitor fair price shops closely and take disciplinary action against shopkeepers who deny rations without valid reasons.

"The One Nation, One Ration Card portability system has been fully and effectively implemented in Karnataka. Between January and July 2025, over 81.37 lakh beneficiaries from our state and 2,647 beneficiaries from other states availed rations under this system. Its primary aim is to ensure migrant workers receive their entitled rations seamlessly," Muniyappa said.

He reiterated that biometric authentication with iris scan alternatives and exemptions ensures secure accessible ration delivery, while improved stic-based distribution keeps ONORC system functioning smoothly.

IN BRIEF

State plans expert-led Water Commission

The Karnataka government has decided to establish a State Water Commission, modelled after the Central Water Commission, to ensure efficient and sustainable management of its water resources. Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, who also holds the Water Resources portfolio, said the permanent body will oversee integrated water resource planning, irrigation management, and cost control. The commission will assess long-term water demand and availability across sectors such as drinking water, agriculture, and industry, preparing 50-year projections aligned with global standards. It will also evaluate existing irrigation systems, introduce modern technologies, and adopt best practices from countries like Israel and Australia. Multi-disciplinary hub for water sustaiability. —BMB

BWSSB revives polluted East Bengaluru lakes

After years of severe pollution from untreated sewage, the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) has rolled out a ₹27.17-crore plan to restore Yele Mallappa Shetty and Bellandur Lakes in East Bengaluru. The initiative follows sharp criticism from the Legislative Committee on Local Bodies, chaired by MLA Rizwan Arshad, which last year found sewage continuing to flow into these lakes despite repeated National Green Tribunal orders.

The plan includes ₹14.71 crore to upgrade the 90 MLD Bellandur STP, ₹12.46 crore for the 15 MLD Yele Mallappa Shetty STP, and the operation of a 5 MLD Sadaramangala Pumping Station with linked pipelines. Contracts include long-term operation and maintenance to ensure efficiency and compliance. —BMB

BM Trippin' Tales

Mysuru leads smart tourism with QR-coded heritage trails

Mysuru Karnataka's cultural capital is embracing technology to make tourism more interactive and meaningful. In a first-of-its-kind initiative in the state, the Department of Tourism has installed QR code-enabled information boards across 33 key tourist locations, allowing visitors to instantly access detailed insights about each site with a simple smartphone scan.

Whether it's the grandeur of Mysore Palace, the serenity of Chamundi Hills, or the spiritual calm of Nanjangud's Srikanteshwara Temple, each destination now offers a digital companion. By scanning the QR code on the newly installed boards, tourists can learn about the site's history, architecture, cultural importance, and even ongoing or upcoming events.

The initiative is designed to serve both domestic and international

Tourists enjoy seamless, eco-friendly exploration — replacing bulky brochures with digital storytelling that connects tradition and technology effortlessly

visitors, with information available in Kannada, English, and several other languages. "It makes sightseeing more immersive and convenient. One can even capture a photo of the QR code and access the details later, along with event updates throughout the year," said Prabhuswamy BM, Assistant Director, Department of Tourism.

The project covers Mysuru's most-visited attractions — including Mysore Palace, Chamundi Hills, Mysore Zoo, RK Narayan's House, Shukavana (Ganapathi Sachchidananda Ashram), the Rail Museum, Jagmohan Palace, the Oriental Research Institute, the Golden Temple at Bylakuppe, and Piriyapatna's Sidilu Mallikarjuna Temple. The digital boards have been strategically installed to ensure that tourists can scan and read key details conveniently while exploring.

Visitors say the initiative has made their experience far more engaging. "It has made our visit more interesting. Instead of waiting for guides or brochures, we get instant facts and stories about every monument," said Ningaraju, a tourist from Bengaluru.

Apart from convenience, the initiative encourages sustainable tourism by reducing the need for printed brochures and booklets. It also ensures accuracy and consistency in the information provided, as updates can be made digitally and in real time. The Tourism Department believes this digital shift will enhance Mysuru's image as a smart heritage city, blending culture and technology in an accessible and inclusive way.

"These boards don't just inform; they inspire more visitors. When people share photos of the QR boards with others, it encourages them to visit too. It's a small step with a big impact on tourist engagement," added Prabhuswamy.

Buoyed by the positive response, the state government now plans to expand the QR code system to other major tourist destinations across Karnataka. Future phases are expected to integrate Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered chatbots and Virtual Reality (VR) experiences, offering virtual tours and interactive storytelling for global audiences.

Blending royal legacy and digital innovation, Mysuru leads India's smart tourism model. —BMB

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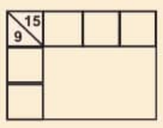
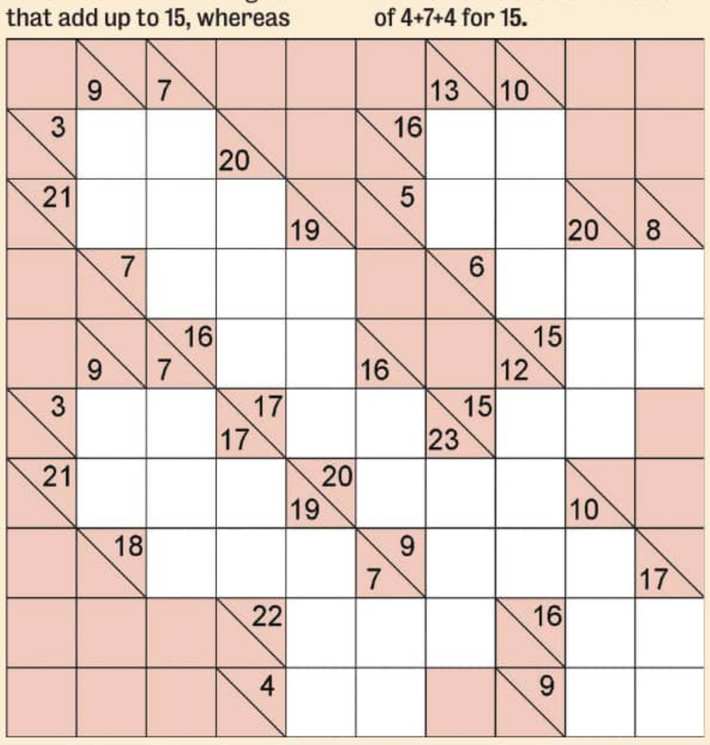
Kakuro

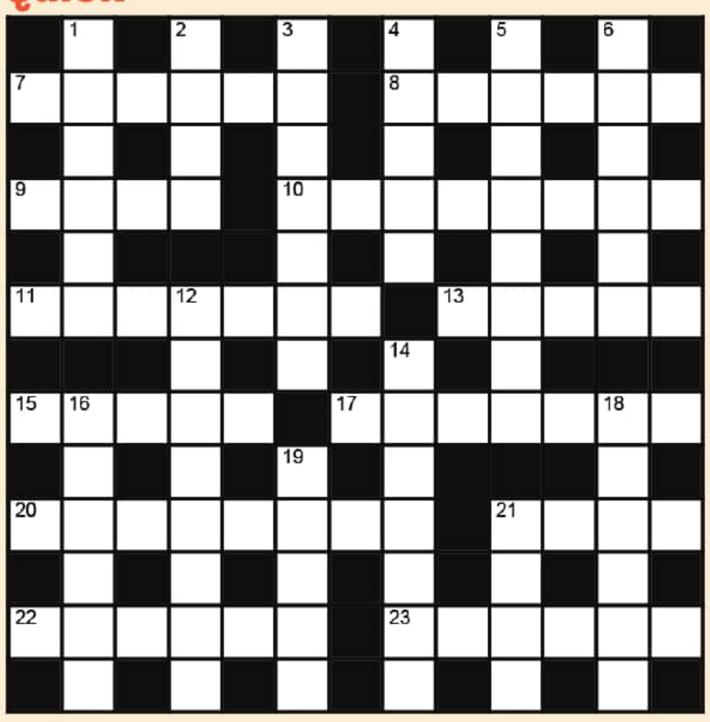
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Cowboy of the pampas (6)
8 Hesitates or waits awhile (6)
9 Campus court (4)
10 Things that happen (6-2)
11 Refreshed or recovered (7)
13 Sea-eagles (5)
15 Jumps or springs forcefully (5)
17 Peculiar or odd (7)
20 Ta-ta in Tokyo (8)
21 Tough guy (4)
22 Mount (6)
23 Sounds of bells at funeral time? (6)

DOWN

1 European river (6)
2 Got a hole in one (4)
3 Astonished, perplexed or puzzled? (7)
4 Spirit dispenser (5)
5 European country–"Big Laura" anagram (8)
6 Flatter (6)
12 Made or became better (8)
14 This cathedral in Bangalore is over 200 years old (2,5)
16 Slip by; pass away (6)
18 Of imposing size (6)
19 Late (5)
21 Part of a shoe (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: J EQUALS G

IZLVGJ VI CDXG QVRX'I EQVYX VG XYXLMSDVGJ.

Linemaro

After seeing you, I know what to ask Santa Claus for Christmas

Mindchow

Do what you love. Know your own bone; gnaw at it, bury it, unearth it, and gnaw it still

Joke of the day

In China, the piano piece 'chopsticks' is known as 'knife and fork'

Loop

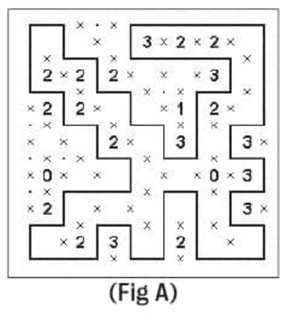
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

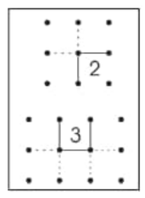
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

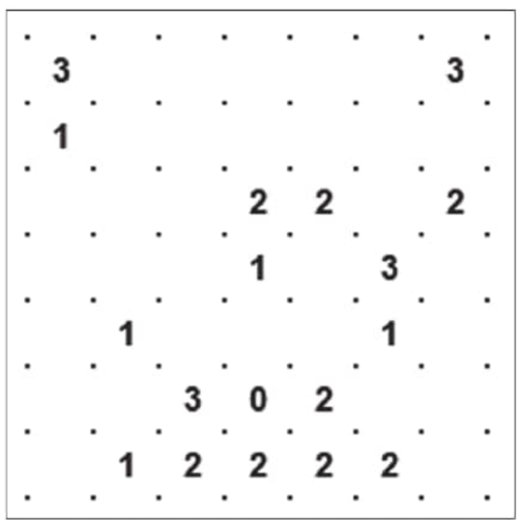
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



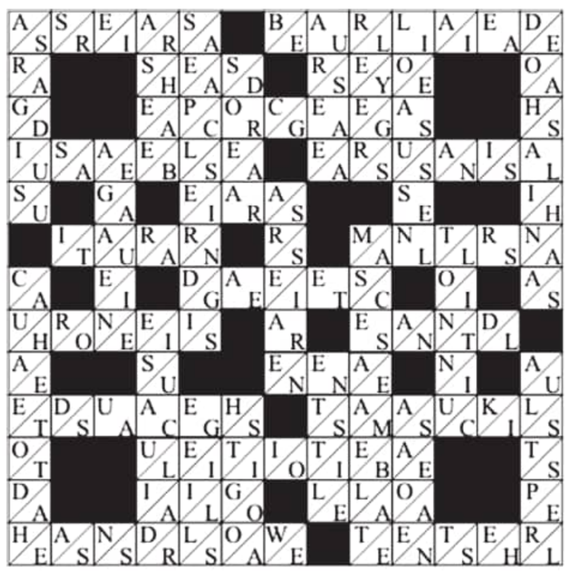
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



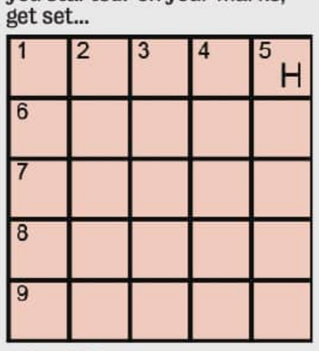
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

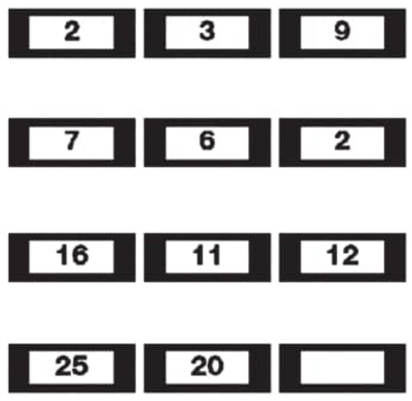
1 Chars; 6 HL Lou;
7 Biles; 8 Laced;
9 De Key

DOWN

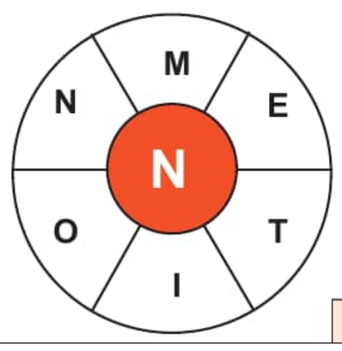
1 Heck C; 2 Bluer;
3 A ally; 4 Sidle;
5 Shoed

Mensapuzzle

Which number goes in the empty box?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

10 Average; 11 Good; 13 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

		5	3		8	2		
7		4				1		8
			1		6			
9			4		5			7
1	8						4	5
5			6		1			2
			8		3			
8		2				3		9
		9	7		2	4		

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 22

2 4 8 8

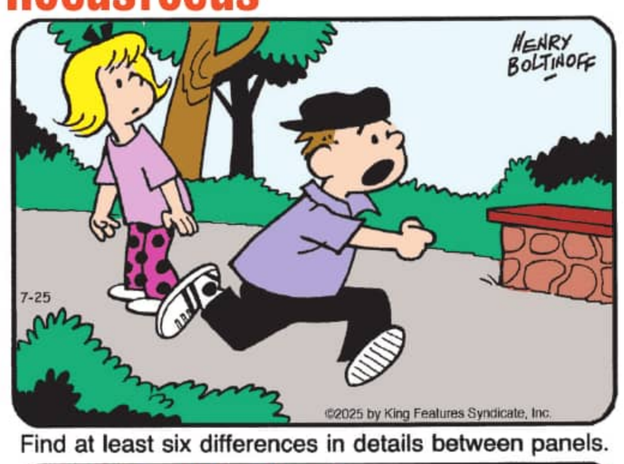
Medium = 19

3 5 5 6

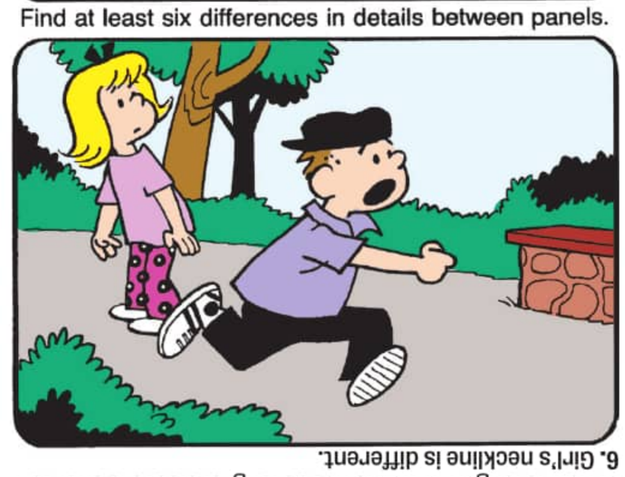
Hard = 1

8 8 9 9

Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



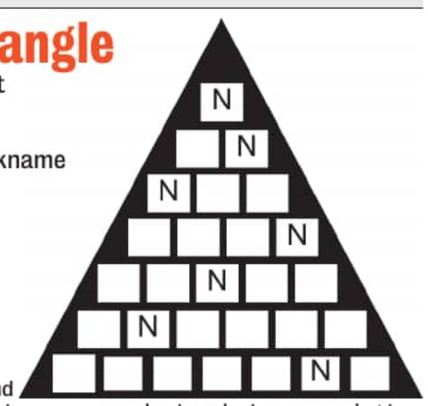
Differences: 1. Pants are different. 2. Arm is longer. 3. Hair is longer. 4. Wall is not as long. 5. Sleeve is shorter. 6. Girl's neckline is different.

Riddler

When I take off my clothes, it puts on its clothes. When I put on my clothes, it takes off its clothes. What is it?

Alpha triangle

1 Direction in short
2 A's alternative
3 Be a pain
4 Nana's other nickname
5 Extent
6 Memory trace
7 Deutschland

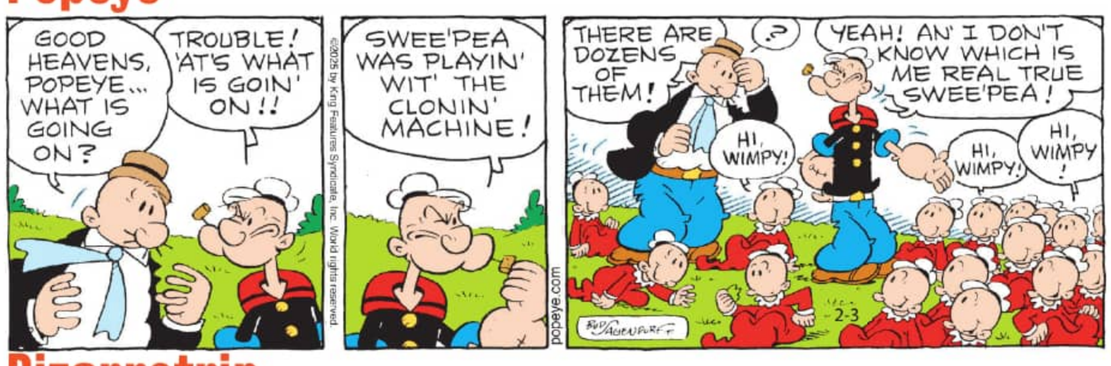


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE »

COMICS

Popeye

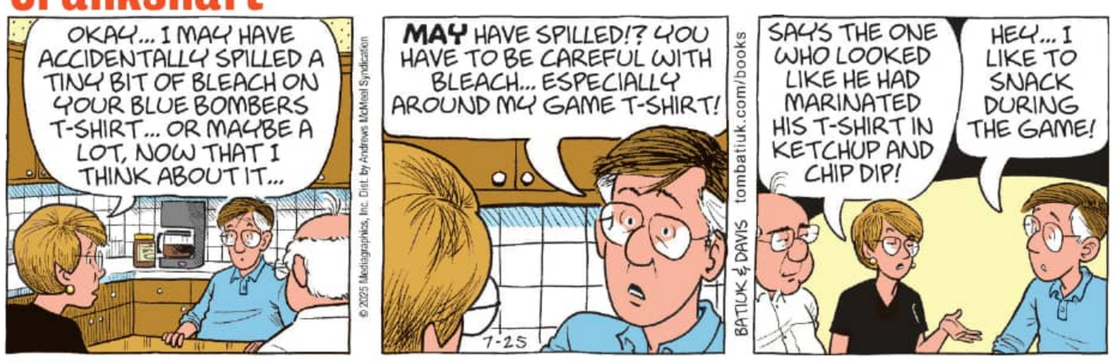


Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

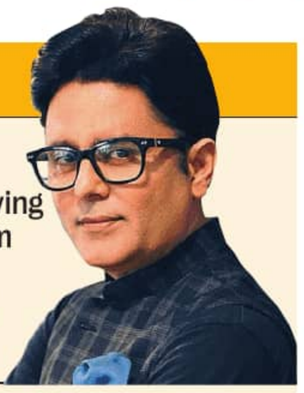
Crankshaft



Mutts

WRITTEN IN THE STARS

DR SUNDEEP KOCHAR



If it's your birthday today

Your career takes a decisive upward and outward turn, possibly involving major travel or relocation opportunities. Finances benefit greatly from aggressive saving and smart, diverse investments. Love shines with commitment and stability, cementing a bond. A happy surprise from a distant family member brightens your year.

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20

Every experience shapes your growth perfectly. Trust the universe's plan and release control. Step back from routines, rest deeply, and indulge in joyful self-care that restores your balance and inner peace.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20

Love and protection surround you now. Enjoy the peace this brings without fearing loss. Trust the goodness of this connection and believe the universe is aligning everything in your favour.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21

Replace doubt with faith. Visualize success and speak your dreams into existence confidently. The universe supports your manifestations; focus on positive outcomes and move forward believing your desires are already real.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23

The universe empowers your ambitions. Take action toward dreams but release those that no longer resonate. Embrace uncertainty with courage; letting go of the old clears space for aligned opportunities.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23

You've supported others selflessly; now prioritise yourself. Reignite your purpose and embrace independence, even if it disappoints some. Solo travel or new adventures will rekindle your fire and inner freedom.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23

Your strategy is solid; start implementing it step by step. Patience brings success. In love, value consistency and mutual eort. Choose relationships that mirror your reliability and nurture your long-term goals.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22

Trust you're on the right path. Perfection isn't required for happiness. Reconnect with your body through movement or dance; release emotions freely and invite harmony between your mind, body, and spirit.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22

Your personal growth deepens through challenges. Each obstacle reveals new truths about yourself. Embrace change with courage; self-discovery is a lifelong evolution.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22

Transformation can feel uncertain, but endings make room for brighter beginnings. Spiritual growth demands faith in unseen progress. Trust divine timing; this moment is exactly where your next chapter begins.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20

Chaos signals divine reordering, not disorder. Release the need for constant control. Celebrate change and trust unseen guidance; miracles unfold when you allow life to move through you naturally.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19

Reflect on how you wish to end this year. Choose meaningful company or travel experiences that bring connection. Whether home or away, nurture heartfelt memories that close this chapter beautifully.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20

Transformation unfolds as you release old patterns. Grieve what's gone but look ahead with faith. Every shift aligns you closer to your purpose; trust that brighter days are already forming.

www.sundeepkochar.com

KIDZONE

Arjitha, 9 years, New Baldwin International School

Kaveri Sriram, 10 years, Vallistus International School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M

[(√√24×6) + √3]/√27=
√12+√3 = (2+1)√3
3√3 / √27 = 1

BULL'S EYE

into, intone, MENTION, mien, mine, mint, neon, nine, none, note, omen, tine, tone

FAST FIVE

C	R	A	S	H
H	U	L	L	O
E	B	L	I	S
G	L	A	D	E
K	E	Y	E	D

STRIKE OUT

A	R	E	A	S	■	B	U	L	L	I	E	D	■	■
R	■	H	A	D	■	R	Y	E	■	E	■	A	■	■
G	■	A	P	O	G	E	E	S	■	H	■	■	■	■
U	S	A	B	L	E	■	A	S	S	A	I	L	■	■
S	■	G	■	I	R	A	■	■	E	■	■	I	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
A	■	I	L	O	■	E	L	O	■	■	■	E	■	■
T	■	L	E	T	I	T	B	E	■	■	■	T	■	■
E	D	U	C	E	S	■	S	M	A	C	K	S	■	■
E	■	U	■	■	N	E	E	I	■	A	■	■	■	■
H	O	N	E	S	■	A	■	S	A	N	D	■	■	■
C	■	I	■	G	A	I	T	S	■	O	■	S	■	■
T	A	R	N	■	S	■	A	N	T	R	A	■	■	■
S	■	G	■	I	R	A	■	■	E	■	■	I	■	■
U	S	A	B	L	E	■	A	S	S	A	I	L	■	■
G	■	A	P	O	G	E	E	S	■	H	■	■	■	■
R	■	H	A	D	■	R	Y	E	■	A	■	■	■	■
H	A	N	D	S	A	W	■	E	N	T	E	R	■	■

QUICK

■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
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■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■

MENSA PUZZLE

23. In columns, add the first three numbers together to get the figure in the bottom box.

RIDDLER

A clothes hanger

QUOTE UNCODE

Spring is when life's alive in everything.

SUDOKU

3	5	9	7	6	2	4	8	1
8	6	2	5	1	4	3	7	9
4	7	1	8	9	3	5	2	6
5	4	7	6	8	1	9	3	2
1	8	3	9	2	7	6	4	5
9	2	6	4	3	5	8	1	7
2	9	8	1	4	6	7	5	3
7	3	4	2	5	9	1	6	8
6	1	5	3	7	8	2	9	4

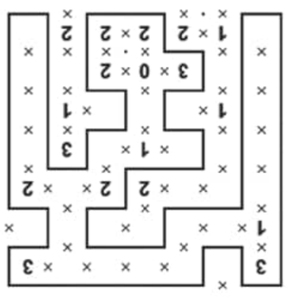
ALPHA TRIANGLE

N, An, Nag, Gran, Range, Engram, Germany.

GO FIGURE

Easy
8 + 2 + 8 + 4 = 22
Medium
5 + 5 + 3 + 6 = 19
Hard
9 - 8 + 8 / 9 = 1

LOOP



KAKURO

■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■

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 # Privilege SS Rajamouli, who rereleased "Baahubali" in theatres, celebrated the ISRO naming one of its rockets after the film's character, calling it a privilege for the team

SANDALWOOD SHOTS

Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Ready for release

Siddu Moolimani and Reshma starrer Love U Muddu is scheduled to arrive in theaters on November 7. The trailer of the movie has created curiosity among moviegoers. The movie, directed by Kumaar, is based on a real incident.

It is said the movie is about a young couple from Solapur, Maharashtra — Akash Narayankar and Anjali Bhai Shinde — who rose to fame through their heartwarming reels, and have recently touched hearts beyond social media. After their marriage, the couple visited a temple to seek blessings, but the day turned tragic when Anjali met with an accident. During her treatment, it was revealed that she had been suffering from a brain tumour since childhood. Though a surgery saved her life, she got paralysed on the right side. Her husband, Akash, continues to create reels to keep her passion alive and motivate her recovery.

Filmmaker Kumaar captures the couple's love, resilience, and hope into a touching cinematic experience.

Afro Tapang song

The much-awaited Afro Tapang song of multilingual movie 45 was unveiled on the occasion of Kannada Rajyotsava at a mall near Konanakunte. The song features Dr Shivarajkumar, Upendra, Raj B Shetty and internationally acclaimed dance group Ghetto Kids. The song was released through Anand Audio. The movie 45 is being bankrolled by Ramesh Reddy under the Suraj Production banner while music director Arjun Janya debuts as a director with this movie.

"The promotional song has turned out well. We have brought Ghetto Kids from Uganda for this song. The song was picturised without compromising with quality. All the credit must go to the director. We are planning to release the movie on December 25," said producer Reddy.

Arjun Janya said he was grateful to Dr Shivarajkumar for supporting him to become a director. "45 does not have songs but I wanted to do a promotional song. I struggled a lot to contact Ghetto Kids of Uganda. The heroes of the movie have acted in this song along with Ghetto Kids.

Blessing in disguise

Sonam Bajwa is currently basking in the success of Ek Deewane Ki Deewaniyat with Harshvardhan Rane. 2025 saw her in 3 Hindi films, but this wasn't her first rodeo with Bollywood. She was supposed to make her Hindi debut much earlier, but there was a time when just six days before her Hindi film was supposed to go on floor, she was axed from the film. Talking about it in an interview with ETimes she said, "There are films that I signed and I was told no, six days before the film was going on floors. I auditioned for that film. I did proper workshops. I learnt a skill. I was meant to do something in that film like some kind of sport. So, I learnt that."

There was also another moment when she had signed a three film contract with a production house but things didn't materialize as the film she was offered had certain scenes which she was not comfortable doing.

All of this left her heartbroken at the time. Looking back she felt it was a blessing in disguise, she said, " But, you know, I feel happy. It was like a blessing in disguise. I think sometimes when you don't get anything, it is God protecting you from something." **—ETimes**

BANTER WITH FANS

How Rashmika reacts when fan asks her to be his Valentine

Actress Rashmika Mandanna conducted an Ask Me Anything session on Instagram on Monday, and during this, an admirer asked the 'Pushpa' actress to be her Valentine for the coming 500 years. An Insta user asked Rashmika, "Thoda jaldi puch leta hu - Will you be my valentine for the next 400-500 years..." The 'Animal' actress gave a hilarious reply saying, "If after these 100 years if we are alive in the same lifetime then why not (red heart emoji) (sic)."

Another netizen shared the question, "How was the shooting experience for the Girlfriend from the other films?"

Revealing that working on the movie was mentally exhausting for her, Rashmika shared, "I remember it was very mentally exhausting because we had to tap into really really deep and raw emotions that generally you want to forget or you just do everything and anything to move on from...I had to tap into them and re live them...which was very hard for me.. (crying emoji) #TheGirlfriend Ask @rahulr_23 he'll tell you. (crying emoji)."

Prior to this, Rashmika expressed unwavering faith in director Rahul Ravindran and "The Girlfriend". She shared a heartfelt post on the director's birthday, and said, "You are too precious my friend.. I still can't believe you've made a film like 'The Girlfriend'... The emotional depth you have, the niceness that you have in your heart flows through every frame."

Rashmika further revealed that she had met Rahul for "The Girlfriend" and ended up finding "a director, a friend, a mentor a partner in crime for a lifetime who I trust wholly and immensely." **—IANS**

'Important to do different roles'

Superstar Shah Rukh Khan says it is important that heroes like him play different kind of roles and hopefully his "very dark and grey" character in "King" will be liked by fans.

At a special fan event to celebrate Shah Rukh's 60th birthday on Sunday, the actor discussed his career milestones, disappointments, the advice he gave to son Aryan Khan before "The Ba***ds of Bollywood" and his new release around the corner.

"The distinction between hero and villain is made by people. I did films like 'Darr', 'Anjam' and 'Baazigar' early in my career and they (roles) will be considered villain, stalker... I just feel if we don't do interesting in films, then it will be the same shots -- the hero comes, sings two songs and fights....

"I think for storytelling, and not because youngsters watch movies today, it is important that heroes like me do different kind of roles, some should be inspiring, some aspiring and some comic and some romantic. This is what I am trying because there is one big film in a year and I also know that it has become a little more difficult to make films so we should be careful so that we don't let you guys down," Shah Rukh shared at the fan event last night.

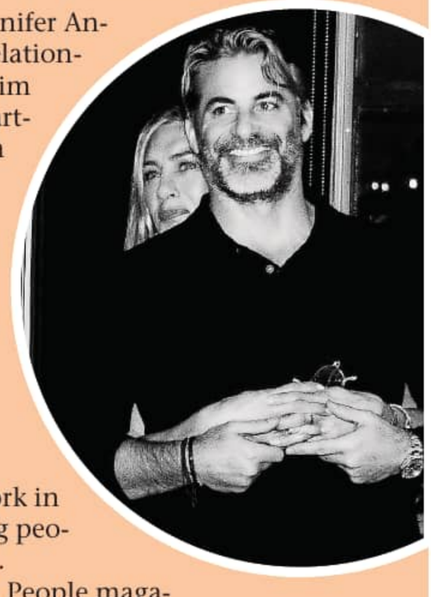
A fan immediately shouted back, "We will not let you down". To which, SRK said, "Nahi tum to nahi karoge par main to kar sakta hoon na."

"King", which features Deepika Padukone and Shah Rukh's daughter Suhana Khan, reunites the superstar with Siddharth Anand after 2023's "Pathaan". **PTI**

It is Insta official

Hollywood star Jennifer Aniston made her relationship with writer Jim Curtis official with a heartfelt post on Instagram on Monday.

The 56-year-old posted a black and white picture of herself hugging Curtis from the back with a sweet smile. "Happy birthday my love. Cherished," the caption to her post read.



Curtis is a hypnotherapist, author and is known for his work in preaching self help and assisting people overcome emotional trauma.

A source close to Aniston told People magazine, "They were introduced by a friend and started out as friends. Jen (Aniston) had read his book and was familiar with his work. He's very different from anyone she's dated before."

Their relationship reportedly began in July 2025, after they were spotted holidaying together on a yacht in Mallorca. In September, Curtis appeared in her "Thank you summer" post after which he was seen alongside the actor at "The Morning Show" premiere in New York.

Aniston was married to actor Brad Pitt in 2000. Their highly publicised relationship ended in divorce in 2005. **— PTI**